

Dr. Peterson

Class of 1974 40th Reunion

Friday, Oct. 31, 2014, Tech Tower Lawn

- On behalf of Georgia Tech, we extend our most sincere thanks to the class of 1974. Please join me in a special thanks to Steve Chaddick and Jim Stratigos, the reunion committee, and all of you who gave so generously. You greatly exceeded your overall goal of \$10 million. Your gift will go a very long way in numerous areas to help us maintain excellence that you have come to expect from your alma mater.
- There are two things that I believe set Georgia Tech apart. One is the trademark innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of our students and alumni, and the other is the loyalty our alumni have for our Institute. Georgia Tech is a national leader in its alumni giving back to the Institute, and tonight you have shown that to be true.
- Your class project in support of the Class of 1974 Innovation and Entrepreneurship Endowment is a gift that will help Georgia Tech prepare innovators and leaders for generations.
- 60% of all Georgia Tech invention disclosures list at least one student.
- InVenture Prize competition/Capstone Design/Ideas to Serve Competition.
- Example: Rachel Ford. 2 companies in Startup Summer, (Talk about FIXD)
- Your generosity extends beyond this class project to support for individually named endowed chairs and professorships, facilities renovation and construction, endowed undergraduate scholarships and fellowships, and of course, the unrestricted annual Roll Call and the Alexander-Tharpe Fund.
- In the past four decades you have seen many things change, in your own lives, and at Georgia Tech. We now have a campus of more than 400 acres, with more than 23,000 students globally. Another 13,500 professionals seek educational credentials through Georgia Tech Professional Education.
- We have an outstanding freshman class of 2,800, from almost 26,000 applicants. The class is 39% women, an all-time high. By contrast, in 1974 Tech had 792 women, about 10 percent of the student body.

- We've done a little research on what was happening at Georgia Tech when you were on campus.

At Georgia Tech in 1974

- The Georgia Tech men's track team had its first undefeated season since 1949 under Coach Buddy Fowlkes.
- The Georgia Tech wrestling team defeated Georgia for the first time in 17 years.
- Basketball became the first women's sport to receive varsity status.
- Pepper Rodgers left U.C.L.A to coach Georgia Tech's football team.

History & Popular Culture in 1974

- Cost of gas: 55 cents per gallon
- Median Household Income: \$9,780
- On Aug. 9, 1974, in the wake of the Watergate scandal, Richard Nixon became the first U.S. president to resign.
- World's population reached 4 billion (Today, 7 billion).
- 55 mph speed limit imposed to preserve gas usage countrywide
- Sears Tower (now called Willis Tower) in Chicago became the world's tallest building (110 stories).
- Movies: *Young Frankenstein* (with Gene Wilder, Madeline Kahn), *The Godfather Part II* (Al Pacino, Robert De Niro), *Chinatown* (Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway), *The Great Gatsby* (Robert Redford, Mia Farrow)

1974 Popular Songs

- "The Way We Were" by Barbara Streisand
- "Seasons in the Sun" by Terry Jacks
- "Dancing Machine" by Jackson 5
- "Bennie and the Jets" by Elton John
- "Jungle Boogie" by Kool and The Gang

We are experiencing a time of positive momentum at Georgia Tech.

- Library renewal project
- EBB, scheduled to open in June 2015
- Opening of Lafayette Institute
- Home Depot innovation center (Tech Square — you can feel the energy)
- Arts@Tech initiative launched

Campaign Georgia Tech is the largest in the Institute's history. Buildings have been renovated and constructed. Colleges and Schools have been named. 83 new endowed faculty chairs and professorships have been established. And hundreds of scholarships and fellowships have been funded. Thanks to more than 60,000 donors, we will likely meet our \$1.5B goal a year early. In spite of this, the vision and drive behind the Campaign continue. Many goals, and much work, are yet to be completed. We're looking forward to carrying the momentum throughout 2015 to finish well.

Close:

Your loyalty to Georgia Tech is timeless. We are indebted to people like you who believe in Tech and want to invest in our future, and more importantly in the future of generations of students to come. Alumni play a vital role in the life of the Institute, including leadership on advisory boards and committees, mentoring students, leading alumni networks and affinity groups around the country, serving as ambassadors for Georgia Tech worldwide and giving generously to ensure that Georgia Tech achieves its vision to define the technological research university of the 21st Century. Thank you, Class of 1974! You are the best.